

Notice to U. B. F. and S. M. T. of Oklahoma

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

Office of National Grand Master U. B. F. & S. M. T.'s of The World:

Jefferson, Texas, March 10, 1915.

CIRCULAR NO. 9.

To All United Brothers of Friendship, Sisters of the Mysterious Ten and Juveniles, Officers of the entire National Jurisdiction—Greeting: This circular comes to inform you of the general condition of the National Jurisdiction and to proclaim the day of National Thanksgiving.

I am glad to state that the National Jurisdiction is at peace with itself and since our last circular we have had only one ripple among our Sister States that would cause us to feel that anything at all had gone wrong. On December 23rd, 1914, I was asked to go to Birmingham, Ala., to investigate some trouble concerning the State Grand Lodge and Grand Temple. A letter from Brother C. A. Howze, State Grand Master at that time, stated that he thought that he could have the matter under control in a short time and save me the trip. I advised Brother Howze to proceed and to settle the matter if possible for I did not care to go to Alabama to take charge, or make investigation. However, matters grew worse instead of better and telegrams began to reach me daily from Alabama, asking for relief and claiming that all of the mortuary money, endowment money, National Grand Lodge Tax, State Taxes had all been used and not a dollar was left in the treasury and that the Jurisdiction was thirty thousand dollars behind with its Endowment claims and not one dollar was being paid on it. Nine-tenths of all of the Lodges and Temples in the State had become defunct and only thirty-five or forty dollars per quarter was being raised, and Mr. Howze's salary, office rent and attorney fees took all of this and was creating a deficiency along this line. A petition with fifty-nine names of members of the Lodges and Temples of Alabama in good standing was sent to me with the above charges and many others against the State Grand Master and his administration, begging me to come to Alabama, make investigation for myself. I then wired my deputy, Brother P. F. Hill, of Nashville, Tennessee, to proceed to Birmingham on the 28th of December and see what the trouble was and make investigation and see if he could not pacify the Jurisdiction. Brother Hill wrote me under date of January the 3rd, 1915, saying that he had been to Alabama and found matters very badly complicated and advised that I set a date when he should return to Alabama, meet me and we together go fully over the matter and see if we could not straighten them out and bring peace to the Jurisdiction. This date was set for February 12, 1915. In the meantime I wrote Mr. Howze and told him that under existing conditions I thought best to come to Alabama and make investigations, since it seemed that we were on the eve of losing the Jurisdiction. I assured him that I had no feeling in the matter and that I considered him innocent of any charge alleged against him until the same had been proved and that I was coming to Alabama, as his guest as Grand Master of Alabama, and asked that he set the place and time for the meeting and asked that he be prepared to meet the accusations alleged against him, a copy of which I sent him and another copy sent, officially through the National Grand Secretary under registered sealed. Mr. Howze said, at first, that he would welcome the investigation and would be glad for me to come and make investigation, but I found conditions quite different when I got off the train at "high noon" February 15th, in the City of Birmingham, Alabama, no one seemed to know me. At first nobody met me and I felt strange from failing to see Mr. Howze upon my arrival. I passed through the station and was making my way up town when Deputy National Grand Master P. F. Hill passed by and asked me to ride with him up town, which I did. Five minutes after arriving at the office of Dr. Jackson, the High Sheriff of Jefferson County, Ala., being piloted by a colored man found his way into the office where I had immediately entered the colored man pointed me out to him, then I was served with injunction papers also Brother Hill preventing us from having anything whatever to do with the Grand Lodge of U. B. of F.'s and S. M. T.'s in the state of Alabama or in making any investigations or in any way, saying or doing anything pertaining to the Order in the State of Alabama. We had to stay in Alabama eight days before we could get before the courts with a cross bill to dissolve this injunction. This we did at the cost of some three hundred and fifty dollars and then cited Bro. Howze to appear before me for investigation, a thing he refused to do, I then went to the Insurance Commissioner's Office where the Grand Treasurer's books were being examined and found canceled checks for the National Grand Lodge Taxes paid to Mr. Howze for several years, none of which had reached the National Grand Lodge and in fact the conditions here showed that the complaints had stated facts in nearly every accusation; not being able to make investigation of Mr. Howze's account and with the information gained by examining the Grand Treasurer's books, I felt justified in suspending Mr. Howze and calling the National Executive committee in extra session to meet March the 8th at Texarkana, Arkansas, since emergency existed and conditions warranted immediate attention. I notified Mr. Howze of this session and asked that he come to Texarkana since he would not allow me to investigate his books and accounts, and be prepared to defend himself before the National Executive Committee. On the morning of March 8th at 11 a. m., a quorum being present the call was read, motion met with a second to accept the same was heard, put and carried. Mr. Howze's case was called up and upon finding him absent an attorney was appointed to defend him. His defense was received and read following the charges against him. Bro. L. F. Hill represented the National Grand Lodge and Brother Lee Headspeth represented

Brother Howze, after arguing the case it was submitted to the Executive Committee who voted unanimously to expel Brother Howze from membership in the Order and sustain the National Grand Master in suspending him from office and made this suspension permanent and appointed Rev. J. S. Jackson of Birmingham, Ala., Grand Master to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Howze and to hold office until his successor had been elected or appointed and qualified.

The Jurisdiction of Alabama under Brother Jackson is taking on new life; many members are returning to the order daily, and we hope to see the Jurisdiction again in a flourishing condition.

The printing press and office fixtures of the State Grand Lodge of Alabama were sold at sheriff sale to the highest bidder, for money which had been borrowed on the same and no one could tell for what it was used. The Jurisdiction is now trying to rebuy this outfit for use in the Jurisdiction. Now with the exception of this case the rest of the National Jurisdiction is working in perfect harmony.

The National Grand Lodge, in its triannual session, will convene in the twin cities of Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas, July the 26th to 31st; the indifference on the part of one or two Jurisdictions concerning the meeting place having been settled by a two third vote in favor of Kansas City.

No State Grand Lodge and no State Grand Temple can be represented in the National Grand Lodge unless all dues and taxes for 1913, 1914 and 1915 are paid in full according to the records of membership in the various Jurisdictions. Every Lodge in the National Jurisdiction that is in good order with its State Department will be entitled to one delegate who shall hold a credential from said Lodge properly sealed and signed by the Master and Secretary. No others can be seated on the floor of the National Grand Lodge. Every State will be entitled to three delegates at large from the State, who will hold credentials signed by the Grand Master of the State and the Grand Secretary and bearing the State Seal.

Respectfully submitted,

T. E. SPEED,

National Grand Master, U. B. F. and S. M. T.'s of the World.
STEPHEN BELL, National Grand Secretary.
Office of National Grand Master U. B. F. and S. M. T.

Jefferson, Texas, 3-10-1915.

To all Grand Lodges, Grand and Subordinate Officers, Members of U. B. F., S. M. T. and Juveniles throughout the World, Greetings:

WHEREAS, It has been the custom for a number of years to appoint one day in each year of General Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God for His goodness and guiding providence and ask the continuation of the same, and

WHEREAS, We as an institution have many things to be thankful for during the past year, the unnumbered kindnesses, and the loving and protecting care of God has at all times been about us and have kept us and preserved us as an institution and has enabled us to care for our sick and afflicted and care for those depending upon us for help in hours of need and distress.

THEREFORE, I, T. E. SPEED, National Grand Master, do hereby set apart and designate Sunday, May the Thirtieth, as a day of General Thanksgiving and on said day all members of the order will congregate in their halls or churches and give thanks and praise to Almighty God for His love and tender mercies bestowed upon us. No Jurisdiction shall choose a separate day from the one designated only by special dispensation of the N. G. M.

Deliver Me, O Lord, from the evil man; preserve me from the violent man.

Members—Which imagine mischief in their hearts; continually are they gathered together for war.

Conductor—They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adder's poison is under their lips. Selah.

Members—Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings.

Con.—The proud have hid a snare for me, and cord; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set guns for me. Selah.

Mem.—I said unto the Lord. Thou art my God; hear the voice of my supplication, O Lord.

Con.—O, God, the Lord, the strength of my salvation thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.

Mem.—Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked; further not his wicked delight; lest they exalt themselves.

Con.—As for the heads of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them.

Con.—Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth; evil shall hunt the vilest man to overthrow him.

Mem.—Let burning coals fall upon them; let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, they rise up again.

Mem.—I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted and the right of the poor.

Con.—Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto their name; The upright shall dwell in their presence.

Addresses

Sermon

Collection

Benediction

Given under my hand and seal of the National Grand Lodge at Jefferson, Texas, this the 10th day of March, 1915. And of U. B. F. Period the 54th LIV.

(L. S.)

T. E. SPEED,

National Grand Master, U. B. F. and S. M. T. of the World.
STEPHEN BELL, National Grand Secretary.